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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

February 15th, 1860.

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REPORT

OF

THE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON THE

STATE TOBACCO WAREHOUSES

IN THE CITY OF BALTIMORE.

REPORT.

The Joint Committee appointed by the House of Delegates and Senate to examine into, and report the present condition of the State Tobacco Warehouses in Baltimore city, have agreed upon, and do make the following report:

They take pleasure in saying they commenced their labors by examining Warehouse No. 1; not finding the Inspector, Jos. R. Hunt, present, they were under the polite guidance of J. E. Hunt, his chief clerk, conducted through the building, which they found in good condition, with the exception of a small defect in one portion of the roof, where the walls join. Your committee further find that,

WAREHOUSE NO. 1,

IN THE YEAR 1858:	
Inspected	14,466 Hhds.
Shipped	12,252 "
Amount of Scraps	65 "
Proceeds from sales thereof, $1,231 79.	
The average number of men employed, 37.	
IN THE YEAR 1859:	
Inspected	12,988 Hhds.
Shipped	12,519 "
Amount of Scraps	112 "
Proceeds from sales thereof, $1,174 85.	
The average number of men employed, 26.	

Your committee then proceeded to examine Warehouse No. 2, and failing to find the Inspector, Z. Howes, present, they were, under the polite guidance of J. W. Blackburn, his chief clerk, conducted through the building, which they found in ordinary condition. In some portion of the roof there were some leaks, which your committee would recommend should be repaired. Your committee further find, from the information furnished by the chief clerk, that

WAREHOUSE NO. 2,

IN THE YEAR 1858:	
Inspected	13,549 Hhds.
Shipped	10,467 "
The amount of Scraps	90 "
Proceeds from sales thereof, $1,000 61.	
The average number of men employed, 36.	
IN THE YEAR 1859:	
Inspected	14,225 Hhds.
Shipped	12,809 "
The amount of Scraps,	71 "
Proceeds of sales thereof, $1,038 40⅘.	
The average number of men employed, 36.	

Your committee have also examined Warehouse No. 3, and find it in a very dilapidated condition, being very old, the foundation having given away, and the walls are in many places, cracked and warped; the building being otherwise in a condition that your committee would not advise the expenditure of any money for repairs, believing that the interest of the State would be greatly promoted by having the house entirely rebuilt; the roofing, spouting, flooring and walls, are in a condition, that almost render it a perfect wreck. The condition of the house would indicate great want of attention on the part of the inspector. Such, however, is the condition of the building that your committee could not attach any blame to him. Fronting this warehouse there is a wharf belonging to the State. From the increased trade your committee would recommend the purchasing of the wharf adjoining the State wharf, at the foot of Conway street, which would

give sixty-eight feet more to the length of the present wharf, thereby affording more room, so as to construct a pier which would, in the judgment of your committee, become a source of revenue. From information furnished by the Inspector, Mr. Griffith, your committee find—

WAREHOUSE NO. 3,

IN THE YEAR 1858:	
Inspected	12,902 Hhds.
Shipped	9,552 "
Amount of Scraps	38 "
Proceeds from sales thereof, $645 36.	
Average number of men employed, 26.	
IN THE YEAR 1859:	
Inspected	11,987 Hhds.
Shipped	11,162 "
Amount of Scraps	22 "
Proceeds from sales thereof, $454 14.	
Average number of men employed, 26.	

Two sets of scales in this house are so small and frequently out of order, your committee would earnestly recommend they should be sold, and new ones purchased.

Your committee examined Warehouse No. 4, and find it, under the Inspector, Mr. R. T. Jenkins, in good repair, your committee further find, from the information furnished, that

WAREHOUSE NO. 4,

IN THE YEAR 1858:	
Inspected	8,111 Hhds.
Shipped	8,749 "
Amount of Scraps	23 "
Proceeds of the sales thereof, $580 30. Average number of men employed, 18.	
IN THE YEAR 1859:	
Inspected	8,865 Hhds.
Shipped	7,696 "
Amount of Scraps	20 "
Proceeds from the sales thereof, $440 78. The average number of men employed, 18.	

Your committee visited Warehouse No. 5, and after a thorough examination, find it in a most excellent condition.

Throughout the entire building, there is evidence of great care and attention on the part of the gentlemanly and polite Inspector, C. P. Montague.

Upon an examination of the books of this Warehouse, we find the labor account to be greatly increased; and in justice to the Inspector, your committee state that the unusually large quantity of Tobacco received from the West for storage, and the comparatively limited amount shipped, and the warehouse being filled, the Inspector, under the instruction of the Comptroller, rented other warehouses remote from his own, thereby causing him to incur the expense of a large number of extra hands; for the correctness of this, your committee would respectfully refer you to the Comptroller's Report of 1860, page xiii.

Your committee further find, from the information fur-

nished by S. T. Addams, the gentlemanly and efficient chief clerk—

WAREHOUSE NO. 5,

IN THE YEAR 1858:	
Inspected	12,937 Hhds.
Shipped	13,457 "
Amount of Scraps	52 "
Proceeds of the sale thereof, $1,275 95.	
Average number of men employed, 48.	
IN THE YEAR 1859:	
Inspected	14,581 Hhds.
Shipped	12,108 "
Amount of Scraps	33 "
Proceeds of the sales thereof, $845 55.	
Average number of men employed, 48.	

By an examination of the Comptroller's Report it will be seen that the expenses for the year eighteen hundred and fifty-six, amounts to the sum of forty-seven thousand, seven hundred and six dollars and eleven cents, embracing the commissions, repairs of houses, wages of laborers, salaries of Inspectors, clerk, nails and incidental expenses; and the gross amounts received during said year from the State Tobacco Inspectors, amounts to the sum of fifty-six thousand five hunpred and sixty-eight dollars and ninety-one cents, leaving a balance in favor of the Tobacco fund for said year, of eight thousand eight hundred and sixty-two dollars and eighty cents, and it will further appear from the Comptroller's Report of 1857, the expenses amounted to the sum of fifty-seven thousand two hundred and fifty-eight dollars and thirty-seven cents, when the receipts for the said year amounted to the sum of eighty-seven thousand six hundred and eighty-five dollars and three cents, making the sum of thirty-nine thousand two hundred and eighty-nine dollars and forty-six cents, applicable to paying the interest and principal upon the Tobacco fund. Your committee from an examination of the Comptroller's Report for 1858, find that the expenses for that year amount to the sum of sixty-four thousand nine hundred

and twenty dollars and fifty-eight cents, embracing the wages to laborers, salaries of Inspectors, clerks, incidental expenses, and for nails and the gross receipts of said year from the Tobacco Inspectors amounted to $70,789.02, leaving a balance in favor of the Tobacco fund for said year, of five thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven dollars and forty-four cents.

By an examination of the Comptroller's report, it will be seen that the expenses for the year 1859, embracing the wages of laborers, incidental expenses, salaries of Inspectors, clerks and for nails, amounted to ninety-four thousand two hundred and fifty-four dollars and fifty-one cents, whilst the gross receipts for the same period amounted only to ninety-two thousand four hundred and thirty-four dollars and twenty-five cents, leaving a deficiency of one thousand eight hundred and twenty dollars and twenty-six cents, to be met by draft upon the Tobaco Fund. Upon a comparison of the statement of the years 1856 and 1857 with the statement for the years 1858 and 1859, your committee are of the opinion there has been great neglect some where on the part of the Inspectors in the management of the affairs of the various Tobacco Warehouses.

The Inspectors represent that they cannot re-condition tobacco for $1, the sum fixed in section 5th of the act of Assembly of 1856, and that in fact it costs about $2. In view of this fact, your committee would respectfully recommend the act of 1858, section 5th be repealed, and the following sums be charged: one or two brakes $1, full stay $2, for redrawing hogsheads not exceeding 1000 lbs. 75 cents, all hogsheads exceeding 1000 lbs. $1, and for outage on all hhds. not exceeding 1100 lbs. $1 25, on all hhds. exceeding 1100 lbs. and not exceeding 1500 lbs. $1 50, on all hhds over 1500 lbs. $2, your committee from a full and thorough investigation of this subject, are of the opinion that this change in the various charges enumerated, would have a tendancy to increase the tobacco revenues.

Your committee further recommend that the Inspector should charge the sum of fifteen cents on each and every hhds. of tobacco sold by the grower and remaining in the State Tobacco Warehouses over six months, the sum of fifteen cents, to be charged to the purchaser for each and every month he allows said hhds. to remain in said warehouses, after the expiration of six months.

Your committee find from an examination that in the years 1856 and 1857, there were 309 hhds. of scraps, which amounted to $11,760 39, and for the years 1858 and 1859, there

were 502 hhds of scraps, the proceeds from the sales thereof amounted to *only* $8,687 73. The scraps are a serious loss to the Tobacco planter, and there should be some legislation to remedy the evil and to protect the grower from imposition and from loss of this character.

Your committee would respectfully represent to the General Assembly, that it shall be the duty of the Inspectors at the several warehouses in the city of Baltimore, to give their personal attention to the inspection of tobacco. And in furtherance of their views they would recommend the passage of a law on this subject, making it a penalty for them or either of them to absent themselves from their place of business during business hours, without a reasonable excuse to the Comptroller for their absence.

Your committee further find that there were expended for nails alone, from the 1st of May, 1858, to the 1st November 1859, the enormous sum of ($17,061 14,) seventeen thousand and sixty-one dollars and fourteen cents.

Your committee from all the information they could obtain, believe that it would be better for the Inspectors to furnish their own nails, the nails now used cost, (10½,) ten and one-half cents per pound, and we are confident they could be purchased for (7½,) seven and one-half cents per pound, in this item of expenses alone, much money could be saved.

Your committee would further respectfully recommend in consideration of the vast amount of expenses incurred under the present system of conducting the various warehouses in the city of Baltimore, it would greatly enhance the interest of the various tobacco growing counties, to appoint a committee of three from the following counties, viz: Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Calvert, Howard and Anne Arundel, whose duty it should be on the first day of May, in each year thereafter, to lease out each of said Tobacco Warehouses to the highest bidder for the period of two years, the party leasing the same to be entitled to all the emoluments now allowed by law in the way of outage, re-drawing storage, staying, &c., not more than one house to be leased to any one person or persons, and at the time of said leasing or letting, it should be the duty of said Commissioners to take from the party a bond in the name of the State, with security or securities to be approved of by said Commissioners for the faithful performance of the trust reposed in said lessee or lessees, and for the payment quarterly of the rent as it may become due therefor into the Treasury. Said Commissioners shall be appointed by the concurrence of both Houses of the General Assembly of Maryland, and receive as compensation

for their services such sum or sums as shall be hereafter provided for by law. Your committee would further recommend that the appointment of the Inspectors should still remain in the hands of the Governor, at the same time making it imperative upon the Governor to remove from office any Inspector, when the Commissioners or a majority of them shall certify to him, (the Governor,) said Inspector or Inspectors have failed to protect the interest of the tobacco growers.

Your Committee would beg leave further to suggest, the Tobacco Warehouses are badly managed, inconvenient and far to small too accommodate the increase and largely increasing trade of Maryland. The regulations and modes of inspection are rotten at the core, and the whole system needs revisal and reconstruction, owing to the want of proper accommodation in the present Warehouses, a large number of hogsheads are stored without adequate protection and undergo damage and deterioration from exposure to the weather. The ware rooms are so crowded and jammed, that the hogsheads are of necessity, knocked about in a shocking manner; if five hogsheads are purchased some fifty or more have often to be removed before the required packages can be got at. We hear of one planter who had twelve and of another who had twenty-five hogsheads sent back to them to be re-opened, thus subjecting the owner to the necessity of paying double freight, and the article to injury, a part of it having been sold afterwards as a damaged article.

The greatest evil arises from the fact that all the Warehouses are on the shallow water of the basin and docks. Can anything be more short-sighted or absurd than to bring an article from the deep water grounds of the bay and its tributaries to the head of a creek so shallow that it has to be carried back again at a heavy cost by drays to the deep water at Fell's Point, before it can be shipped to foreign ports?

From the best data your Committee have been able to obtain, there is reason to believe that under the present system, or rather want of system, each years crop of Tobacco pays an excess of not less than from seventy-five thousand dollars to one hundred thousand dollars, all of which falls of course on the planters. Is it best to continue or abolish inspections?

In answer to the query, your Committee decidedly recommend its continuance, but advise at the same time, the whole system be revised and reconstructed. From the enhanced value of the present locations of the Warehouses, and also considering the price of land near the deep water, your Committee would earnestly recommend as chief of all, that the present Warehouses be sold out to the highest bidder or bidders, and

that new and more ample accommodations be had on deep water and so arranged that ships of the greatest draught may lie alongside and load directly from the warehouses. We have reason to believe that storerooms twice as commodious and convenient as the present Warehouses may be had besides a handsome profit to the Tobacco fund. Under the worst view of the case we are assured that this most desirable change may be made without the slightest loss. Your Committee would further recommend the appointment of one Inspector, with as many deputies as he may require, all to give bond to the State for the faithful performance of their duties. In connection with the Tobacco Warehouses, your Committee have examined the State wharf property, and in places have found it miserably out of repair and requiring immediate attention and repair. They also believe that said property should as it could be, rendered more profitable for revenue purposes. Your Committee are also of the opinion as it is now managed, individuals have the use and advantages of the same at a price merely nominal, and far below that which might be obtained. Your Committee find these wharves are used for the purpose of storing wood, more than for the purpose of receiving Tobacco. They, therefore, most respectfully call your attention to this matter. Your Committee respectfully submit the annexed table, which will show fully the amount of expenses for each of the Warehouses, for the time specified:

TABLE.

Warehouse No. 1—		
Paid for labor and incidental expenses, from 1st August, 1856, to 1st Feb'y, 1857,	$5,627 83	
From 1st Feb'y, 1857, to 1st Nov. 1857,	7,771 84	
		$13,399 67
Warehouse No. 1—		
Paid for labor and incidental expenses, from 1st August, 1858, to 1st of Feb'y, 1859,	9,986 22	
From 1st Feb'y, 1859, to 1st Nov., 1859,	11,113 36	
		21,099 68

TABLE—(CONTIUNED.)

Warehouse No 2—		
Paid for labor and incidental expenses, from 1st August, 1856, to 1st Feb'y, 1857,	$5,025 96	
From 1st of Feb'y, 1857, to 1st Nov., 1857,	7,270 53	
		$12,296 49
Warehouse No. 2—		
Paid for labor and incidental expenses, from 1st August, 1858, to 1st of Feb'y, 1859,	10,681 59	
From 1st Feb'y, 1859, to 1st Nov., 1859,	13,056 03	
		23,737 62
Warehouse No. 3—		
Paid for labor and incidental expenses, from 1st August, 1856, to 1st of Feb'y, 1857,	4,185 33	
From 1st Feb'y, 1857, to 1st Nov., 1857,	6,562 15	
		10,747 48
Warehouse No. 3—		
Paid for labor and incidental expenses, from 1st August, 1858, to 1st Feb'y, 1859,	8,691 43	
From 1st Feb'y, 1859, to 1st Nov., 1859,	9,964 78	
		18,656 21
Warehouse No. 4—		
Paid for labor and incidental expenses, from 1st August, 1856, to 1st of Feb'y, 1857,	3,425 35	
From 1st of Feb'y, 1857, to 1st Nov., 1857,	3,637 57	
		7,062 82
Warehouse No. 4—		
Paid for labor and incidental expenses, from 1st August, 1858, to 1st Feb'y, 1859,	3,451 25	
From 1st Feb'y, 1859, to 1st Nov., 1859,	6,922 55	
		10,373 80

TABLE—(CONTINUED.)

Warehouse No. 5—		
Paid for labor and incidental expenses from 1st August, 1856, to 1st of Feb'y, 1857,	$5,147 96	
From 1st of Feb'y, 1857, to 1st Nov., 1857,	6,554 66	
		11,702 62
Warehouse No. 5—		
Paid for labor and incidental ex-dental expenses, from the 1st of August, 1858, to 1st of Feb'y, 1859,	14,694 15	
From 1st of Feb'y, 1859, to 1st Nov., 1859,	16,397 78	
		31,091 93

GEO. H. MORGAN, Ch'n House Com.

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